

April 20, 1989

LB 247, 335A, 591, 591A

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. Do you have anything for the record, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Enrollment and Review reports LB 591 as correctly engrossed. New A bills. (Read LB 591A and LB 335A by title for the first time. See pages 1802-03 of the Legislative Journal.) That's all that I have, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Approaching at the moment in the north balcony, Senator Goodrich has guests coming in. There are 56 students from Westgate Elementary School in Omaha, Nebraska with their teacher. Would you wave to us, students, so that we can recognize you for visiting us today. And thank you for visiting us. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend. (See page 1803 of the Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President and members, this amendment follows an expected vote on the last amendment and raises the issue for discussion about why it would be appropriate to move with Kearney and not appropriate to include all the other state colleges. Now I understand there may be some differentiations, obviously size would be one, but in my estimation the role and mission of the state colleges is very similar that the differences are rather small in nature in terms of what their intent is. Their differences in size of the student population is certainly great, but a university is not a university just because of its size. It's a university because of its role and its mission, its function, its programs, its faculty, and there is a lot of different factors involved with that. And I frankly contend that if Kearney is a university, then you can as well argue that the other state colleges could be considered a university as well. I have in my own district Wesleyan University, a small university that has about 1,000 students. The other state colleges are as big as Wesleyan is. It is considered a university. And so in my view the question really is, why single out Kearney and why not include the other state colleges as we make this change? If the goal is to better coordinate and prioritize in higher education, then the better course of action would seem to me to include all the state colleges and not just one of the state colleges. And this is